

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-10 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 OPIC-03

AID-05 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-06 DHA-02 COME-00

EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00

SCCT-01 OMB-01 USSS-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 USIE-00 INRE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 /117 W

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O R 131438Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4958

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6741

E;O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO, PINS, MILI

SUBJ: PARTY REACTION TO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY LOCK-IN

REF: LISBON 6737 DTG 131144Z NOV 75

SUMMARY: DEMOCRATIC PARTIES ARE TAKING CRISIS GENERATED BY
PCP-LED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS EXTREMELY SERIOUSLY. SOCIALISTS
AND POPULAR DEMOCRATS HAVE CALLED COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION FOR
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LATER TODAY (NOV 13) IN FRONT OF PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. CENTER

SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ARE SUPPORTING DEMONSTRATION. END SUMMARY.

1. PARTY REACTIONS TO CRISIS: DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL PARTIES ARE TAKING CRISIS GENERATED BY PCP-LED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS SERIOUSLY. SOCIALIST (PS) LEADER SOARES AND POPULAR DEMOCRATIC (PPD) LEADER SA CARNEIRO MET AT NOON TO CONSIDER NEXT STEPS. ALREADY DECIDED UPON IS A COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION TODAY (NOV 13) IN FRONT OF PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, LESS THAN TWO MILES FROM BESIEGED SAO BENTO PALACE. BRITISH EMBASSY REPORTS THAT PARTIES HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH SEEKING HELP IN PRESSING GOVERNMENT TO TAKE FIRM ACTION. PS HAS REQUESTED ITS MEMBERS TO STOP WORK THIS AFTERNOON AND START ASSEMBLING AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE RIGHT AWAY.

(A)PS REACTION: PS SPOKESMAN DESCRIBED SITUATION TO EMBOFF AS "EXTREMELY GRAVE." SOCIALISTS ISSUED STATEMENT MORNING NOV 13 CONDEMNING ACTION BY CONSTRUCTION WORKERS. PS LABELLED ACTION A "POLITICAL MANIPULATION" ON THE PART OF MINORITY FORCES ATTEMPTING TO TURN LEGITIMATE WORKERS' STRUGGLE INTO A SEDITIONOUS MANEUVER AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. PS NATIONAL LEADERSHIP IS NOW IN EMERGENCY SESSION.

(B) PPD REACTION: PPD SPOKESMAN TOLD EMBOFF THAT PPD BELIEVES PCP IS ATTEMPTING A COUP. AZEVEDO'S ORDERS, HE SAID, WERE BEING IGNORED. COPCON, HE NOTED, SIMPLY DID NOT RESPOND TO AZEVEDO'S ORDER EVENING OF NOV 12 TO PREVENT MOVE BY CONSTRUCTION WORKERS. ACCORDING TO PPD, COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE INSIDE SAO BENTO, HAS EFFECTIVELY BEEN CUT OFF AFTER CONSTRUCTION WORKERS FORCED DELGATES AND OTHERS INTO HEMICYCLE OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WHERE THERE ARE NO PHONES.

(C) CDS REACTION: PARTY LEADER TOLD EMBOFF CDS VIEWS SITUATION AS ATTACK ON GOVERNMENT AIMED AT DISSOLUTION OF CONSTITUTE ASSEMBLY. CDS IS ESPECIALLY WORRIED BY PCP DECISION TO BUS ADDITIONAL WORKERS IN FROM LISNAVE AND BEJA LATER TODAY.

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